

How should we organise community health services? This is the question posed by Swerissen in his paper in the *Forum* section of this issue. Within the context of reforms to the health system with an increased focus on improving efficiency, he argues that the organisation of community services should be driven by the functional relations between general care, acute care and co-ordinated care. The efficiency of vertical and horizontal integration and the creation of community health networks is considered in relation to a number of issues including distributional equity. He concludes that community health networks offer the most efficient model for the delivery of community based public health and general, acute and co-ordinated care services. It is hoped that this paper and the arguments presented will give rise to debate within the primary health care sector.

The Journal would be pleased to publish commentary on this paper, and indeed on any other issues arising from published papers. Please submit comments to the Editor.

The large number of factors influencing the health of the community is reflected in this issue of the journal. The main theme is organisational and attitudinal change in the delivery of services and how services, people and practitioners can be linked to provide more comprehensive care and better health outcomes. Papers range from access to medication information, a rural shared care program for people

with diabetes, the voluntary sector, community health social work, integrated service delivery, and a community health information model, to breast health, local government health plans, measuring outcomes and ageing and health. Concern for the involvement of community members is demonstrated in these articles and in innovative practices and programs.

The *Community Health Live* section of the journal is itself the outcome of the recognition by practitioners in the field of the need to share information about innovative practices in primary health care. This was celebrated in March in Victoria with the presentation of the 1977 Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Primary Health Care at La Trobe University. One of the finalists to present during the day's program was Women's Health for the West with 'Breast for Me - Breast Health for Women with Disabilities' and an article on this work appears in this issue. The journal is privileged to be able to publish this and further presentations which will appear in future issues.

The importance of the value in primary health care of recognition of diversity and difference was one of the themes which came through strongly during the Awards. The need for this recognition is even more important as economic hardship and financial stringency give rise to populist beliefs which have the potential to threaten the value of that very diversity, and the need to strive for access and equity in health.

*Heather Gardner, Editor*